



HONOLULU ETHICS COMMISSION NEWS BULLETIN

theCOMPASS

Navigating Ethics for the City & County of Honolulu | December 2020



Ethics Reminders: Accepting Gifts Part 2

This holiday season, we're celebrating things a little differently. Here are some additional gift reminders to help you make good ethical decisions.

Q1: What is a gift?

A: Anything that you did not pay full value for. Examples of gifts include food or drinks, gift cards, and vouchers.

Q2: I received a small gift of food (musubi, coffee, dessert). What do I do?

A: You may accept small items (tokens of aloha) such as food or drink. Tokens of aloha may be edible, may be shared or worn (lei), or grown (plant), and are valued at less than \$50, up to \$200 per source, per fiscal year.

Q3: I received a gift, but I don't know who it's from. What do I do?

A: Let your director know you received the gift. Your director will arrange for you to forward the gift to your director's office and it will be treated as a gift to the City.

Q4: I received a gift, but I can't give it back. What do I do?

A: Let your director know you received the gift. Your director will arrange for you to forward the gift to your director's office and it will be treated as a gift to the City.

Q5: I know I can't receive gifts from prohibited sources. What if I accept the gift but then give it away to someone else?

A: Generally, you may not accept any gifts from prohibited sources. Accepting gifts from these sources might lead people to think that the gift influences your decisions or rewards you for doing your city job. Instead of accepting the gift and regifting it, politely refuse the gift and explain that city employees generally cannot receive gifts.



**Have a happy
and healthy
holiday season!**

Still have questions?

Contact the Ethics Commission for specific guidance on city ethics laws:

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